DEAS 384: 2021

ICS 71.100

DRAFT EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Disinfectants and antiseptics - Glossary

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Second Edition 2021

Copyright notice

Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS) and other deliverables. The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the principles and procedures for development of East African Standards.

East African Standards and other deliverables are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 069, *Organic and Inorganic chemicals.*

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be subject of patent rights. EAC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (EAS 384:2005), which has been technically revised.

Disinfectants and antiseptics — Glossary

1 Scope

This Working Draft East African Standard defines the terms used in the disinfectant and antiseptic industry.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses: — ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1 Algicide
chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing algae including their spores.

3.2 Antimicrobial agent:
any agent that kills or suppresses the growth of microorganisms.

3.3 Antisepsis
destruction or inhibition of micro-organisms on living tissue having the effect of limiting or preventing the harmful results of infection. It is NOT a synonym for disinfection.

3.4 Antiseptic
chemical agent used in antisepsis.

3.5 Asepsis:
prevention from contamination with microorganisms. Includes sterile conditions on tissues, on materials, and in rooms, as obtained by excluding, removing, or killing organisms.

3.4 Bactericide
chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing bacteria but not necessarily bacterial spores (see sporicide).

3.6 Bacteriostasis
state in which multiplication of bacterial population is inhibited.

3.7 Bacteriostat
chemical agent which under defined conditions induced bacteriostasis.

3.8 Bioburden:
microbiological load (i.e., number of viable organisms in or on the object or surface) or organic material on a surface or object prior to decontamination, or sterilization, also known as “bioload” or “microbial load.”

3.9 Biocide
general term for a chemical agent capable of killing or inactivating micro-organisms. It embraces the more specific terms algicide, bactericide, fungicide, sporicide and virucide (see also germicide).

NOTE Pesticides are not considered to be biocides.

3.10 Biofilm
accumulated mass of bacteria and extracellular material that is tightly adhered to a surface and cannot be easily removed.

3.11 Biologic indicator
device to monitor the sterilization process that consists of a standardized population bacterial spores known to be resistant to the mode of sterilization being monitored. Biological indicators indicate that all the parameters necessary for sterilization were present.

3.12 Bleach
household bleach (that includes 5.25% or 6.00%–6.15% sodium hypochlorite depending on manufacturer) is usually diluted in water at 1:10 or 1:100. Approximate dilutions are 1.5 cups of bleach in a gallon of water for a 1:10 dilution (~6,000 ppm) and 0.25 cup of bleach in a gallon of water for a 1:100 dilution (~600 ppm).

3.13 Chemical sterilizing agent
chemical agent which under defined conditions lead to sterilization.

3.14 Contact time
time a disinfectant is in direct contact with the surface or item to be disinfected. For surface disinfection, this period is framed by the application to the surface until complete drying has occurred.

3.15 Contaminated
state of having been in contact with microorganisms. As used in health care, it generally refers to microorganisms capable of producing disease or infection.

3.16 Cleaning
the removal of visible soil, organic and inorganic contamination from a device or surface, using either the physical action of scrubbing with a surfactant or detergent and water or an energy-based process (e.g., ultrasonic cleaners) with appropriate chemical agents.

3.17 Culture
growth of microorganisms in or on a nutrient medium; to grow microorganisms in or on such a medium.

3.18 Culture medium
substance or preparation used to grow and cultivate microorganisms.

3.19 Detergent
compounds that possess a cleaning action and have hydrophilic and lipophilic parts. Although products used for handwashing or antiseptic handwash in a health-care setting represent various types of detergents, the term “soap” is used to refer to such detergents in this guideline. Detergents make no antimicrobial claims on the label.

3.20 Disinfectant
chemical agent used on inanimate objects (i.e., nonliving) (e.g., floors, walls, sinks) to destroy virtually all recognized pathogenic microorganisms, but not necessarily all microbial forms (e.g., bacterial endospores). The EPA groups disinfectants on whether the product label claims “limited,” “general” or “hospital” disinfectant.

3.21 Disinfection
destruction of micro-organisms, but not usually bacterial spores; it does not necessarily kill all micro-organisms, but reduces them to a level acceptable for a defined purpose, for example, a level which is neither harmful to health nor to the quality of perishable goods.

3.22 Fungicide
chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing fungi including their spores.

3.23 Fungistasis
state in which the development of fungal population is inhibited

3.24 Fungistat
chemical agent which under defined conditions induces fungistasis.

3.25 General disinfectant
EPA-registered disinfectant labeled for use against both gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria. Efficacy is demonstrated against both *Salmonella choleraesuis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Also called *broad-spectrum disinfectant*.

3.26 High-level disinfection
disinfection process that inactivates vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi, and viruses but not necessarily high numbers of bacterial spores.

3.27 High-level disinfectant
agent capable of killing bacterial spores when used in sufficient concentration under suitable conditions. It therefore is expected to kill all other microorganisms

3.28 Intermediate-level disinfection
disinfection process that inactivates vegetative bacteria, most fungi, mycobacteria, and most viruses (particularly the enveloped viruses) but not bacterial spores.

3.29 Intermediate-level disinfectant
liquid chemical germicide registered by the EPA as hospital disinfectant and with a label claim of potency as a tuberculocidal.

3.30 Limited disinfectant
disinfectant registered for use against a specific major group of organisms (gram-negative or gram-positive bacteria). Efficacy has been demonstrated in laboratory tests against either *Salmonella choleraesuis* or *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria.

3.31 Low-level disinfection
process that will inactivate most vegetative bacteria, some fungi, and some viruses but cannot be relied on to inactivate resistant microorganisms (e.g., mycobacteria or bacterial spores).

3.32 Low-level disinfectant:
liquid chemical germicide registered by the EPA as a hospital disinfectant. OSHA requires low-level disinfectants also to have a label claim for potency against HIV and HBV if used for disinfecting clinical contact surfaces.

3.33 Microbicide:
any substance or mixture of substances that effectively kills microorganisms.

3.34 Micro-organisms
microscopic entity capable of replication. It includes bacteria, viruses and the microscopic forms of algae, fungi and protozoa.

3.35 Shelf life:
length of time an undiluted or use dilution of a product can remain active and effective. Also refers to the length of time a sterilized product (e.g., sterile instrument set) is expected to remain sterile.

3.36 Spore:
relatively water-poor round or elliptical resting cell consisting of condensed cytoplasm and nucleus surrounded by an impervious cell wall or coat. Spores are relatively resistant to disinfectant and sterilant activity and drying conditions (specifically in the genera *Bacillus* and *Clostridium*).

3.37 Sporicide
chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing bacterial spores.

3.38 Sterile
free from all living micro-organisms

3.39 Sterilization
process which renders an item sterile

3.40 Sterilant
agent or combination of agents which under defined conditions leads to sterilization.

3.41 Virucide
chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing or inactivating viruses.

3.42 Germ
microorganism especially one which causes disease.

3.43 Germicide
agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing germs.

3.44 Sanitization
process of both cleaning and disinfecting an item or surface (living and non living) for the purpose of health and hygiene.

3.45 Sanitizer
chemical agent used for sanitization

Bibliography

EAS 384:2005, Disinfectants — Glossary of terms

BS 5283:1986 – *British Standard — Glossary of terms relating to disinfectants*.